

Mr Hall followed him. He wanted to make sure that the stranger was all right. The door of the stranger's room was open and Mr Hall entered. The room was dark.

Suddenly, Mr Hall saw an arm without a hand and an enormous white face coming towards him. Something hit him **violently** and pushed him out of the room. The door closed with a bang. Mr Hall stood outside the door, confused.

He went downstairs. Everybody was angry with the delivery man because he had a fierce dog.

"The stranger doesn't want any help," said Mr Hall. "Take his luggage inside."

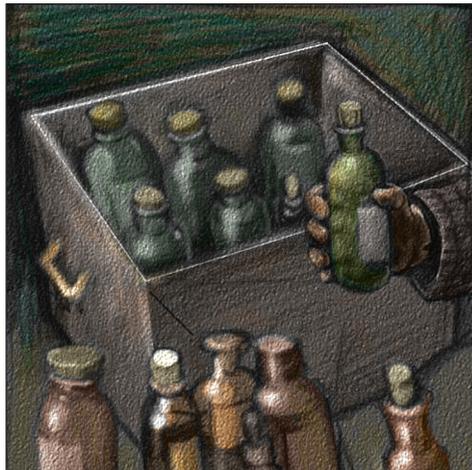
Suddenly the dog started barking again. The stranger stood at the door. He wore different trousers and gloves and his hat covered almost all his face.

"Are you all right, sir?" asked the delivery man. "I'm very sorry ..."

"I'm perfectly all right. Hurry with those things," shouted the stranger in an angry voice.

They carried the boxes to the stranger's room. The stranger opened the first box quickly. From the box he took bottles of all colours, shapes and sizes. All the boxes were full of similar bottles, and soon the entire room was full of them. The stranger started working. He **paid no attention** to the luggage or books.

When Mrs Hall brought his dinner to him, he was busy with



From the box the stranger took bottles of all colours, shapes and sizes.

his work. He did not hear her enter. He half turned his head and immediately turned it away again. But Mrs Hall saw that his glasses were on the table next to him, not on his eyes. She thought that his eyes were very dark. He put the glasses on and looked at her.

He said, in his usual angry voice, "I must ask you not to enter without **knocking**. I told you that no one must disturb me during my experiments."

"Well, lock the door!" said Mrs Hall. "Now sir, the mess in this room ..."

"Don't worry if you have extra work because of the mess. I will pay you more," said the stranger aggressively.

He worked all afternoon. The door was locked the entire time. Mrs Hall heard the noise of a bottle breaking. She was frightened that there was a problem. She went and listened at the door.

"I can't continue," she heard the stranger shout. "Four hundred thousand! It will take me all my life! **Patience! Liar! Fool!**" Then the room was silent again.

That same afternoon the delivery man was in the bar, talking to Teddy Henfrey.

"I tell you, his hands and legs are black," he said. "I saw them when the dog tore his trousers and glove. And his nose is pink! And his face is white! He's black here and white there. He's very strange."

CHAPTER 4

DR CUSS INTERVIEWS THE STRANGER

The stranger continued in the same way for three months. He often did things that Mrs Hall did not like. When this happened, he simply offered her more money.

Some days the stranger got up early and worked all day; other days he got up late and stayed in his room, walking up and down or sitting by the fire. Very often he talked to himself in a